

REMARKS

Claims 11, 14, 16, 20-22, 31-33 and 34-35 are pending. All of the claims were again rejected in the outstanding office action. However, applicants thank the Examiner for providing a thorough analysis of the prior art and for identifying points of possible confusion. In response to the Examiner's remarks, the applicants have amended the claims to overcome rejections under Section 112 and to address the Examiner's comments concerning the OSI model. Specifically, the independent claims are amended to now define subject matter which is non-obvious over the prior art, and which is consistent with common understanding of TCP/IP models. Claims 11 and 31 each now define two connections. The second connection of claim 11 enables real time control of an automation device, and the second connection of claim 31 effects high speed communication suitable for real time control of the automation device. Although not required by the independent claims, the recited second connections could be made via secondary protocol stacks enabled, for example, for automation modules via a LAN environment. It is submitted that the claims as now presented define patentable subject matter and satisfy the requirements of Section 112.

Conclusion

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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